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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/551,722	10/03/2005	Hakan Granquist	340058.591USPC	6183

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HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
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RESTON, VA 20195

EXAMINER

HYLTON, ROBIN ANNETTE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3781

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/551,722	Applicant(s) GRANQUIST, HAKAN	
	Examiner ROBIN HYLTON	Art Unit 3781	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 April 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-15 and 19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2-15 and 19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 2-11 and 19 are objected to because of the following informalities: the preamble of the dependent claims is inconsistent with the preamble of the independent claim from which they depend. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 5 recites the limitation "the radial direction of extension" in line 4. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 6 recites the limitation "the radial direction of extension" in line 4. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

4. Claims 2-15 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bergman (US 2004/0250713) in view of Bullard.

Bergman an isostatic press (70), comprising:
a pressure chamber; a lid (76) adapted to close the pressure chamber of the isostatic press, said lid having a first position in which it closes the pressure chamber and a second position in which it is separated from the pressure chamber; a mounting (102) beneath the lid, the

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mounting being adapted to receive a sealing arrangement (104); the sealing arrangement being arranged in a first position of the lid to seal between the lid and an inner wall of the isostatic press; and a stop (108) arrangement arranged to limit movement of the sealing segment so that the segment is kept "in" the mounting also in a second position. Bergman does not disclose the sealing arrangement is disposed in said mounting and comprises at least two individual circular-arc-shaped segments which together form a closed ring when they are placed in the mounting.

Bullard teaches a sealing arrangement disposed in a mounting (4), the sealing arrangement being arranged in said first position of the lid to seal between the lid and an inner wall of the isostatic press (1), the sealing arrangement comprising at least two individual circular-arc-shaped segments (6) which together form a closed ring when they are placed in the mounting; and a stop arrangement (9, 5) arranged to limit movements of the segments so that the segments are kept in the mounting also in said second position. It is inherent that the segments are kept in the mounting in the second position since the lid could not be easily inserted into the opening of the vessel if the segments were not positioned to stay in the mounting. Bullard further teaches a projecting portion on each end of each segment for corresponding overlap with adjacent segments.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form substitute the sealing arrangement of Bullard for the sealing arrangement of Bergman. Doing so eliminates an additional seal mechanism (108) and provides a sealing arrangement that provides an effective and consistent seal between the lid and the inner wall of the chamber.

It is noted the claims are drawn only to a method for sealing a lid, and does not include sealing the lid within a container opening. The prior art inherently meets the limitations of a

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method for sealing a lid adapted to close a pressure chamber of an isostatic press, comprising: using as a seal a set of individual circular-arc-shaped segments; placing each segment in a mounting belonging to the lid, so that the segments together form a closed ring and seal between the lid and a wall of the pressure chamber when the lid closes the pressure chamber; and locking each segment so that its mobility of each segment in the radial direction of extension of the lid is limited, and so that the segments are kept in the mounting also when the lid is removed from the pressure chamber (claim 12), including actuating each segment by a spring force directed outwards in the radial direction of extension of the lid, so that the radial position of the segments is adjusted to the expansion of the pressure chamber during a press operation (claim 13), by further including placing and locking one segment at a time to establish a seal (claim 14).

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed April 23, 2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues the prior art references in combination do not teach all of the claimed limitations, and more specifically a mounting beneath the lid. However, the prior art reference to Bergman does teach a mounting beneath the lid as outlined in the rejection above. It is noted that the claims merely set forth the mounting is beneath the lid and does not give specifics of the mounting (in at least the independent claim). Thus, the term "mounting" as used in the instant claims is given its broadest, reasonable interpretation.

Regarding applicant remarks directed to the teaching of Bullard, it is asserted that Bullard discloses the seal between the segments and the inner wall is consistent. This is irrespective of the motion of the piston. Thus, the teaching is sufficient to combine with the lid of Bergman and renders the claimed invention obvious.

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Conclusion

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

7. Applicant is duly reminded that a complete response must satisfy the requirements of 37 C.F.R. 1.111, including: "The reply must present arguments pointing out the specific distinctions believed to render the claims, including any newly presented claims, patentable over any applied references. A general allegation that the claims "define a patentable invention" without specifically pointing out how the language of the claims patentably distinguishes them from the references does not comply with the requirements of this section. Moreover, "The prompt development of a clear Issue requires that the replies of the applicant meet the objections to and rejections of the claims." Applicant should also specifically point out the support for any amendments made to the disclosure. See MPEP 2163.06 II(A), MPEP 2163.06 and MPEP 714.02. The "disclosure" includes the claims, the specification and the drawings.

8. In order to reduce pendency and avoid potential delays, Group 3720/80 is encouraging FAXing of responses to Office Actions directly into the Group at (571) 273-8300. This practice may be used for filing papers not requiring a fee. It may also be used for filing papers which require a fee by applicants who authorize charges to a PTO deposit account. Please identify the examiner and art unit at the top of your cover sheet. Papers submitted via FAX into Group 3720/80 will be promptly forwarded to the examiner.

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9. It is called to applicant's attention that if a communication is faxed before the reply time has expired, applicant may submit the reply with a "Certificate of Facsimile" which merely asserts that the reply is being faxed on a given date. So faxed, before the period for reply has expired, the reply may be considered timely. A suggested format for a certificate follows:

I hereby certify that this correspondence for Application Serial No. _____ is being facsimiled to The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office via fax number 571-273-8300 on the date shown below:

Typed or printed name of person signing this certificate

Signature_____

Date_____

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robin Hylton whose telephone number is (571) 272-4540. The examiner can normally be reached Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (Eastern time).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anthony Stashick, can be reached on (571) 272-4561.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Other helpful telephone numbers are listed for applicant's benefit:

- Allowed Files & Publication (888) 786-0101
- Assignment Branch (800) 972-6382
- Certificates of Correction (703) 305-8309
- Fee Questions (571) 272-6400
- Inventor Assistance Center (800) PTO-9199
- Petitions/special Programs (571) 272-3282
- Information Help line 1-800-786-9199
- Internet PTO-Home Page <http://www.uspto.gov>

July 31, 2009

/Robin A. Hylton/
Robin A. Hylton
Primary Examiner
GAU 3781